

THE MINUTES OF THE WARRANT COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 20, 2002

Chairman Brusch called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Members absent : J. Heigham, W. Hofmann, and P. Morley

Also present: Selectman Anne Marie Mahoney, Selectman Paul Solomon, Town Administrator Melvin Kleckner, Assistant to the Town Administrator Joyce Munro, Director of Finance and Administration Dr. Gerry Missal, Town Treasurer Susan Kendall Freiner, and the Capital Budget Committee

Discussion of the FY03 Capital Budget

Member Clark discussed the change in the Article 23 regarding the Senior Center. The motion under the Article wording has been changed to a "new permanent" Senior Center instead of merely permanent Senior Center, thus precluding a renovated Senior Center. This will affect the discussion at Town Meeting.

Member Clark passed out a spreadsheet (Handout 1) with the summary of requests which Capital Budget Committee works from. This is not the wish list. This is a list of items that Department Heads consider serious this year. The Capital Budget request was cut to get down to both Option A (no override) and Option B (override) amounts. The checkmarks are the items the Capital Budget Committee cut out in order to get down to Option B. The items without checkmarks are still left in. In order to get down to Option A, \$232K more was taken out of: the Wellington window glazing, part of the School Department Roof Program, the Zamboni and part of the elevator project at the Library. Member Clark pointed out the Mack Pumper in the Fire Department (Page 1). Since there is no backup vehicle, and the Town is badly getting out of the rotation of replacing Fire Department vehicles, the Capital Budget Committee decided to leave this in the Capital Budget.

There is some money in the spreadsheet to fund the proposal to do some comprehensive planning. The proposal was to reserve some money so that the Town can hire outside help to plan for a physical and fiscal point of view for the Capital Budget.

Member McCormick asked how much money was taken out of the Roof Repair Program. Member Clark responded \$62,800 taken out of the total \$212K total Roof Program this year.

Member Oates asked about the Buildings and Grounds request for repairing the Payson Park retaining wall. She noted the amount seems high. Member Clark informed the Committee the amount was determined by Kevin Looney, Manager of Buildings and Grounds.

Member Hilgenberg asked what the Capital Budget average has been over the past few years. Member Clark noted the amount seems high since it includes Sewer and Water

capital projects as well. He also discussed with the Committee the money to be borrowed for the Communications Tower.

Member Hilgenberg asked Member Clark for the amount scheduled for the Supplemental Feasibility Studies. He responded \$96,800. This would be to hire consultants to help the Town. Chairman Brusch informed the Committee the Board of Selectmen are going to form a subcommittee of the Capital Planning Committee to look at the feasibility of the things suggested at the Mega Meeting earlier this month.

Member McCormick clarified that, pertaining to the Capital Budget only, the difference of the Town having an override or not is only \$232K.

Discussion of Warrant Articles for Town Meeting

Article 5 Salaries of Elected Officials (9 members present)

Chairman Brusch noted the Committee has not taken a vote on this article as a whole yet.

- Member Oates made a motion, Member Miller seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted in favor of recommending said action.

Article 6 Non-contributory Pension Appropriation (9 members present)

- Member McCormick made a motion, Member Flewelling seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted in favor of recommending said action.

Article 7 Contributory Pension Appropriation (9 members present)

- Member Flewelling made a motion, Member McCormick seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted in favor of recommending said action.

Member McCormick said the Subcommittee recommends the appropriation of \$2,429,750.

Article 11 Capital Budget (with 12 members present)

- Member Clark made a motion, Member McCormick seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted in favor of recommending said action for both Options A and B.

The Committee received the Budget and Reports of the Warrant Committee and the Capital Budget Committee (Handout 2). *Articles 9 Personnel Policy Guide Revisions*

Member Hilgenberg asked if the Warrant Committee approves the Budget and this Article, have we therefore approved the new Compensation Plan? Chairman Brusch does not believe so. Then Member Hilgenberg questioned which Article approves the new Compensation Plan? The Committee discussed and established Article 10 would include that approval. Mr. Kleckner agreed. A memo from Mr. Kleckner (Handout 3) regarding Article 9 and 10 was passed out to Committee members. Attached in the Handout is a "red-lined" version of the Guide.

The Warrant Committee will discuss and vote on this Article on Wednesday night.

Article 10 Position Classification and Compensation Plan

The Warrant Committee will discuss and vote on this Article on Wednesday night.

Article 27 Quarterly Reports

Selectman Brownsberger envisioned a one-page item to go in the Light Department bill with headlines and pointers to the web site. Member Curtis does not see this is a wise thing to do since it will be legally tying the Board of Selectmen to these quarterly reports, and he will be voting no.

Member Widmer asked if the Board of Selectmen have voted on this Article. Selectman Mahoney feels it is better for the Town residents to get their information from the Board of Selectmen rather than other places. The report would be a better source since the information is coming straight from the Board of Selectmen.

The Committee discussed wording regarding the "Board of Selectmen be required to" produce a periodic report. Member Hilgenberg asked if the motion could be amended on the floor of Town Meeting. Member Curtis would drop his objection if the Board of Selectmen are not legally required to produce this report. Member Oates agreed even though she was one of the original signers for this Article.

- Member Flewelling made a motion, Member Hilgenberg seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted in favor of the amendment switching the word "require" to "request".
- Member Oates made a motion, Member McCormick seconded said motion, and it was voted by majority to **not recommend** said action on the Article as it stands in the Town Warrant.
- Chairman Brusch, Selectman Brownsberger, Member Clark, Member Curtis, Member Flewelling, Member Hilgenberg, Member Hobbs, Member McCormick, Member Miller, Member Oates, Member White, Member Widmer voted **not to recommend** said action.
- Member Schafer **opposed not recommending** said action.

Article 23 Permanent Senior Center Funding

Mike Speidel, of the Capital Budget Committee, reported that the motion under this Article would not contain the word "new" and noted this is an alternative to the original citizen's article. It does not appropriate a dollar amount, or establish a place in the queue for the project. Member Miller questioned if there are any implications for calling the Senior Center a "necessity." Members of the Warrant Committee indicated that all of the projects being studied are necessities. Because there is no dollar figure allocated to this Article, the Warrant Committee does not need to take a vote.

Acceptance of Minutes

1. Member Hilgenberg made a motion, Member Widmer seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes as amended of April 10, 2002.
 2. Member Hilgenberg made a motion, Member Widmer seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes as amended of April 17, 2002.
 3. Member Hilgenberg made a motion, Member Widmer seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes as amended of April 23, 2002.
 4. Member Hilgenberg made a motion, Member Widmer seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes as amended of April 24, 2002.
 5. Member Hilgenberg made a motion, Member Widmer seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes as amended of April 29, 2002.
 6. Member Miller made a motion, Member Flewelling seconded said motion, and it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes as amended of May 1, 2002.
- Member Flewelling made a motion, and it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina E. Frizzell
Interim Recording Clerk